

"THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS"

Poems by Paul Claudel

Music for Organ by Marcel Dupré

MARILYN MASON, ORGANIST
MAUDE DRAKE BINGHAM, NARRATOR

THE STATIONS*

- I. Jesus is condemned to Death
- II. Jesus receives His Cross
- III. Jesus falls the first Time
- IV. Jesus meets his Mother
- V. Simon the Cyrenian helps Jesus to carry the Cross
- VI. Jesus and Veronica
- VII. Jesus falls a second Time
- VIII. Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem who follow Him
- IX. Jesus falls the third Time
- X. Jesus is stripped of His Garments
- XI. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
- XII. Jesus dies upon the Cross
- XIII. Jesus is taken from the Cross and placed in the arms of His Mother
- XIV. Jesus is placed in the Sepulchre

The Stations of the Cross Marcel Dupré has placed himself before the drama as a witness who could in his emotions take up the words of the apostle: "What I have seen, what I have heard - that is what I have to say to you". He has seen, he has heard the two principal actors of the drama: Christ and the Virgin.

The Christ as Victim - we foresee it everywhere: from the first Station with the cries of the crowd pursuing him; we hear him stumble under the weight of the cross, but it is at the eighth Station that he reveals himself in a gesture of pity toward the "daughters of Israel who follow him". Crushed under the burden, he falls shortly afterwards at the ninth Station; it is upon him alone that our eyes are fixed, when stripped of his garments, nailed upon the cross, he speaks a last time to his Father before dying.

The Virgin shattered by grief: a striking figure which appears at the fourth Station, expressed by the song of a flute, whose design, as if it could not maintain itself, falls back on itself three times. While the drama is taking place, she remains apart. When all is consummated, she advances again to receive the body of her son. She is always the "Mother of Grief", as the poet has chanted: "Mater Dolorosa".

Around these two personages, other secondary figures are sketched: the Holy Women whose meeting furnishes a temporary halt to the ascent to Calvary; Simon the Cyrenian, his steps adjusted little by little to those of the Victim; Veronica, who cannot withhold a gesture of pity, crowned by the Miracle at the close of the Station.

Thus the personages: here now is the setting amid which they move - first, the praetorium where the crowd mills around, shouts, then little by little melts away - a strikingly novel effect in the history of organ music notation.

Then begins the climb toward Calvary, translated from the second Station by an expressive rhythm: a solemn cortege which will become, at the fourteenth Station, a funeral march for the placing of the body in the tomb. Christ falls heavily, having arrived at the place of torture; his body is hoisted to the Cross by the ropes which grate; the blows of the hammer resound; the earth trembles, and finally, while the funeral procession leads us to the entrance of the tomb, by a magnificent lightening effect, the dawn of the Resurrection, felt little by little throughout the work, rises and illumines by its radiant tonality.

- Abbe R. Delestre, L'Oeuvre de Marcel Dupré, transl. Dr. E. L. Ford

*Please withhold applause until the close of the performance.

Four Murder Suspects Await Hearings

ATLANTA (UPI) — Four suspects in the murder of a family of six were flown from West Virginia Friday night and lodged in jail pending preliminary hearings Saturday in the angry southwest Georgia town of Donalsonville.

"We're not worried" about the safety of the prisoners in the town where five men and a woman in the Alday family were shot to death Monday night, said Col. Ray Pope, director of the State Department of Public Safety.

But, he added, "We're not going to take any foolish steps."

The fugitives, Wayne Coleman, 26, his half brothers, Carl Isaacs, 19, and William Isaacs, 15, all of Parkville, Md., and George Dungee, 35, of Baltimore, were taken to four jails in metropolitan Atlanta for safekeeping. Authorities refused to identify the jails.

The men, captured by a posse in the mountains of West Virginia, were returned to Georgia in a state-owned plane from Charleston, W.Va., where they waived extradition.

Coleman and the Isaacs brothers were captured Friday morning when a bloodhound led officers to their hiding place in a cave near Welch, W.Va. The fugitives, "very tired and exhausted," offered no resistance. Dungee was caught Thursday night at a roadblock thrown up after the robbery of

a grocery at Slate Creek, Va., 40 miles from Welch. He also surrendered quietly. Coleman, Dungee and Carl Isaacs escaped from a prison work camp near Towson, Md. May 5.

FBI agent Robert D. Warden of Bluefield, W. Va., said Coleman admitted killing Richard W. Miller, 19, of McConnellsburg, Pa., after they commandeered his car over a week ago near McConnellsburg.

Premier Performance in Alva

Organ Music, Poetry, Part of Special Concert

BY OSCAR STOVER

On May 13 at the First Presbyterian Church, Maude Drake Bingham and Marilyn Mason Brown presented the "Stations of the Cross" by Marcel Dupre in a special concert. This presentation marked the premier performance of this work in Alva and was arranged to be presented here by Mrs. Arthur Lane, 319 Oklahoma Blvd.

The title "Stations of the Cross" was given to a set of pieces which were originally improvised by the composer, Marcel Dupre, a noted 20th century French organist. However, they were later written down for subsequent

performances and were alternated with the verses of poetry which inspired the music set down by Dupre. The poems, written by Paul Claudel, were read by Maude Drake Bingham, Assistant Professor Emeritus of Speech and Drama of Northwestern State College, and set the mood for each improvisation which was performed at the organ by Marilyn Mason.

Slides depicting scenes while the music relevant to the 14 stations of the Cross were shown to the audience while the music was being played.

Following the concert, a reception was held in the church fellowship hall to honor the artists.

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